Exports of Products of Small and Tiny Units

2501. SHRI A. CHARLES: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to encourage the export of products of the small and tiny units by the Export Import Bank; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERECE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). Exim Bank supports exports of Small-scale and tiny units as also of other industries through its various programmes. Two of the these programmes, exclusively designed for Small Scale units are mentioned below:

(i) 100% funding support by the Exim Bank to Commercial banks through rediscounting of export bills of small scale units and;

(ii) Term-Loans extended by the Exim Bank under Export Marketing Funds at a concessional interest rate of 13.5% to Small-Scale units,. enabling them to enhance their export production capabilities through import of technology and plant & machinery for modernisation/ expansion.

National Equity Fund Scheme

2502. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether th scope of National Equity Fund Scheme has been enlarged and equity assistance under the scheme reduced;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the equity assistance scheme will now be operated through banks also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE Minister of FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). The ceiling on capital cost of projects eligible for assistance under the National Equity Fund Scheme (NEFS) has been raised from Rs.5 lakhs to Rs. 10 lakhs. Simultaneously the equity type of assistance available under the Scheme has also been doubled from Rs.75,000 to Rs. 1.50 lakhs per project. Thus the equity assistance under the scheme has been increased, and not reduced. The scope of NEFS has been enlarged in pursuance of the policy measures announced by the Government on 6.8.1991 for promoting and strengthening small, tiny and village enterprises.

(c) and (d). NEFS is now operative through commercial banks as well as State Financial Corporations, twin function State Industrial Development Corporations-and-Scheduled Urban Co-operative Banks.

Development of National Highways in Orissa

2503. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has submitted a detailed plan for development of National Highways in Orissa during Eighth Plan period; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and decision taken by the Union Government so far as the question of approval as well as outlay for the Eighth Plan period is concerned?